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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
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In re Application of: Daniel F.X. O'Reilly et al.
Serial No.: 09/619,104
Filing Date: 07/19/2000
Title: SYSTEM FOR DETERMINING CHANGES IN THE
RELATIVE INTERESTS OF SUBJECTS
Group Art Unit: 2857
Examiner: Patrick J. Assouad
Attorney's Docket No.: NEWS-1

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

RESPONSE

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(DATE OF DEPOSIT)

JAMES A. SHERIDAN

(NAME OF ATTORNEY)

James A. Sheridan 9/3/02

(SIGNATURE)

SEPTEMBER 3, 2002

(DATE OF SIGNATURE)

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner rejected
claims 1-28 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over
Reilly et al. in view of Herz et al.

With respect to the rejection under 35 USC 103(a),
Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The present invention comprises a method for determining
changes in the count of news articles related to a subject over a

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recent time period. The present invention also comprises a system for determining changes in the count of news articles related to a subject over a recent time period. In claim 1 of the present invention, the method comprises measuring a count of news articles for the subject over the recent time period, comparing the count of news articles for the subject over the recent time period to a count of news articles for the subject for a previous time period, and signaling when the comparison yields a difference greater than a predetermined amount.

In claim 28 of the present invention, the system comprises means for measuring a count of news articles for the subject over the recent time period, means for comparing the count of news articles for the subject over the recent time period against a count of news articles for the subject of a previous time period, and means for signaling when the comparison yields a difference greater than a predetermined amount.

It is Applicants' belief that Reilly et al. disclose a display statistics generator that keeps track of how many times users request a specific news item during a given time period. It is Applicants' belief that Herz et al. disclose a system that monitors which articles are read by a user and updates the user's preference profiles.

Applicants believe that the prior art of record does not teach or disclose (1) means for measuring a count of news articles for the subject over the recent time period, (2) means for comparing the count of news articles for the subject over the recent time period against a count of news articles for the subject of a previous time period, and (3) means for signaling when the comparison yields a difference greater than a predetermined amount. Applicants also believe that the prior art of record does not teach or disclose (1) measuring a count of news articles for the subject over the recent time period, (2) comparing the count of news articles for the subject over the recent time period against a count of news articles for the subject of a previous time period, and (3) signaling when the comparison yields a difference greater than a predetermined amount.

In other words, the present invention determines changes in the volume of news articles related to a subject over a given time period from the volume of news articles for the same subject over a previous time period. This count relates to how many news articles there are for a given subject over a given time period; this is quite different from how many requests there are for a given news item over a given time period. Neither Reilly et al.

nor Herz et al. appear to measure counts of news articles for a subject over multiple time periods, compare a count from a recent time period to a count from previous time period, and signal when the counts yield a difference therebetween greater than a predetermined amount. Accordingly, claims 1 and 28 are believed to be allowable and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-27, which depend either directly or ultimately from claim 1, are believed to be allowable at least for the reasons identified hereinabove. Accordingly, allowance of claims 2-27 is respectfully requested.

In the event that any fees may be required in this matter, please charge the same to Deposit Account No. 16-0221.

Respectfully submitted,

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